

Remarks

In response to the Office Action mailed on July 25, 2005, the Applicants sincerely request reconsideration in view of the following remarks. The claims as presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

As noted above, a paragraph in the Specification has been amended beginning on line 21 on page 18 and continuing through line 9 on page 19. Support for this amendment may be found in Fig. 9 and on page 28, lines 3-4 of the Specification. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1 and 17 have been amended to clarify that a collocation space includes a physical space allocated for equipment belonging to a plurality of communications entities and to clarify that the application comprises a form for receiving information provided by a user. Support for these amendments may be found on page 2, lines 5-8 and in Figure 16 of the patent application. Claim 35 has been added. Claim 35 incorporates the features of claims 17, 26, 29 and 30. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-9 and 17-33 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 1-9 and 17-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Giles et al. (U.S. Patent 6,104,999, hereinafter “Giles”).

Drawings

In the Office Action, Fig. 9 is objected to for failing to include an explanation of reference numerals 120, 122, and 124. As discussed above, the Specification has been amended to include an explanation for the aforementioned reference numerals. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of Fig. 9 should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-9 and 17-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Giles. The rejection of these claims is respectfully traversed.

Giles discloses an interface for telecommunications resellers of telecommunications products and services to increase accuracy and turn-around time for electronic orders. Giles further discloses the development of transaction sets suited for telecommunications services and products. The transaction sets provide a standard method for electronic ordering where external access to dynamic data is required. Giles further discloses automated translation to and from unique or proprietary interfaces used by individual resellers to standard transaction sets. The telecommunications resellers provide an interface between wholesalers of telecommunication products and services and end users or customers in a telephone network, utilizing a computer network. The wholesalers include Local Exchange Carriers ("LECs") which, own one or more Central Offices ("COs"). (See Col. 2, lines 66-67 through Col. 4, lines 1-3).

Amended independent claim 1 specifies a method for assisting a user in completing an application for collocation space. The method includes the following steps: (A) obtaining user information regarding a location and physical characteristics of the collocation space and equipment to be installed therein, the collocation space comprising a physical space allocated for equipment belonging to a plurality of communications entities, (B) setting data field values of the application based on the information provided by the user, the application comprising a form for receiving the information provided by the user, (C) allowing a proposed layout of the equipment for the collocation space or other documents to be associated with and attached to the application, (D) prompting submission of the application, (E) if the user has submitted invalid or

incomplete information, presenting the user with an error message and advising the user of a source of any error; and (F) providing confirmation of successful submission of the application.

Giles fails to teach, disclose, or suggest each and every feature specified in claim 1. For example, Giles fails to disclose obtaining user information regarding a location and physical characteristics of the collocation space and equipment to be installed therein. As specified in claim 1, the collocation space comprises a physical space allocated for equipment belonging to a plurality of communications entities. In contrast, Giles describes a reseller, which gathers customer information related to a particular telecommunications service or product (used by the customer) during a pre-ordering process. (See Col. 6, lines 40-43). As discussed in Col. 3, lines 30-44 of Giles, telecommunication services or products may include such services as caller ID, call forwarding, and call waiting. Thus, Giles fails to disclose information regarding the location and physical characteristics of a collocation space allocated for equipment belonging to a plurality of communications entities. Giles also fails to disclose that the application for collocation space comprises a form, as specified in claim 1. In contrast, Giles discloses that customer information is collected or mapped to a particular truncation set to form an electronic document. (See Figure 2, and Col. 6, lines 45-49). Based on the foregoing, claim 1 is allowable and the rejection of this claim should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-9 depend from claim 1 and thus specify at least the same features. Therefore, claims 2-9 are allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1 as well as the additional features cited therein. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 2-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should also be withdrawn. Amended independent claim 17 specifies similar features as claim 1 and is thus allowable at least for the same reasons as claim 1. Accordingly, claim 17 is allowable and the rejection of this claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be also be

withdrawn. Claims 18-33 depend from claim 17 and thus specify at least the same features. Therefore, claims 18-33 are allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 11 as well as the additional features cited therein. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 18-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should also be withdrawn.

New Claim

New claim 35 incorporates the features of claims 17, 26, 29 and 30. As discussed above, these claims are allowable over the cited references of record. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 35 is also allowable for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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